

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

Talking Points for DCI Meeting
with Israeli Defense Minister Rabin

15 December 1987

Situation Report on Israeli Military Operation
in South Lebanon (as of 1300)

25X1

--Press accounts this morning reported Israeli troops and armor vehicles had advanced to the village of Maydun in southern Lebanon--approximately 3 miles north of the security zone and about 13 miles north of the Israeli border.

--The attack, according to press, apparently was launched around noon and is targeted against Hizballah positions.

25X1
25X1

[redacted] was briefed earlier today by the Israeli Directorate of Military Intelligence on this operation.

--[redacted] that one of their patrols engaged in a firefight a few miles north of the zone, resulting in two Israeli casualties--not further specified.

25X1

--The Israelis also insisted the operation was not planned as a retaliation for the 25 November Palestinian glider attack on a northern Israeli military garrison.

25X1

Based on the [redacted] [redacted] we believe the Israeli operation is limited in scope and, therefore, not intended as a reprisal for the Palestinian attack.

25X1
25X1

--More likely the Israeli action is aimed at the pro-Iranian fundamentalist Hizballah faction in retaliation for their recent attacks against Israeli troops and naval units in southern Lebanon--Hizballah claimed responsibility for a seaborne clash with an Israeli naval vessel in Lebanese waters north of Tyre last Thursday in which an Israeli naval officer was killed.

25X1

--We believe that Israel will retaliate for the glider attack by conducting air strikes against Palestinian bases in Lebanon. A less likely possibility exists that the Israelis would attack Palestinian facilities in Syria--but this would entail a substantially increased risk to Israeli aircraft and possibly escalate into a direct military confrontation with Syria. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1